

VZCZCXRO2740  
PP RUEHAG RUEHBI RUEHCI RUEHLH RUEHPW RUEHROV  
DE RUEHAH #1286 2701345  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
P 261345Z SEP 08  
FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1625  
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE  
RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE  
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE  
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 4341  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 2153  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 2018  
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 2589  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC  
RHMFISS/CDR USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC  
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 2928

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASHGABAT 001286

SIPDIS

STATE FOR SCA/CEN, INL

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/26/2017

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [SNAR](#) [TX](#)

SUBJECT: TURKMENISTAN: SOURCE SAYS FIRING OF CUSTOMS CHIEF  
IN JUNE WAS DUE TO PRESIDENT'S DESIRE TO INSTALL HIS OWN  
PEOPLE IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

REF: ASHGABAT 0783

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires a.i. Sylvia Reed Curran for reasons 1.  
4 (B) and (D).

¶1. (C) According to UN Office on Drugs and Crime  
Turkmenistan Office Project Coordinator Ercan Saka (please  
protect), President Berdimuhamedov fired State Customs  
Service Chairman Muratberdi Annaliyev in June because the  
president wanted Yaylym Berdiyev, at that time chairman of  
the State Migration Service, to introduce the same kind of  
modernization and operational upgrades to Customs as he did  
at the State Migration Service. Saka added that Berdiyev is  
"close" to the president. Saka did not mention the incident  
at Serakhs border crossing checkpoint as a contributing  
factor to the personnel change (reftel).

¶2. (C) COMMENT: It appears that Berdimuhamedov is replacing  
former President Niyazov's old guard with young leaders he  
prefers, as post speculated in reftel. Post is watching for  
other similar leadership changes and will continue to report  
on them as they occur. END COMMENT.  
CURRAN